

REMARKS

Claims 5-6, 8-10, 20-27, 32, 34-37, and 39-51 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 9, 21, 32, 39, and 45 are independent. In light of the amendments and the remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-4, 7, 11-19, 28-31, 33, and 38 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. These cancellations are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding official action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-6, 8-10, 20-27, 32, 34-37 and 39-51 include allowable subject matter. By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to include the elements of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. These amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims include allowable subject matter as previously indicated by the Examiner and further submit that the claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No.: 10/670,059

Docket No.: 1248-0669P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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